Planned Changes to the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)

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Changes in 2014-2015

In 2014-2015 Virginia will implement a new online alternate assessment program for students with significant cognitive disabilities to replace the current "Collections of Evidence" in reading, writing, and mathematics.



Online Alternate Assessment

- The online alternate assessment is being developed by the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment System Consortium
- DLM Consortium includes 13 states
- The DLM Assessment is based on research on how students with significant cognitive disabilities learn



DLM Alternate Assessment

The DLM system is designed to map a student's learning throughout the year. The system will use items and tasks that are embedded in day-to-day instruction. In this way, testing happens as part of instruction, which both informs teaching and benefits students.



DLM Essential Elements

- The Essential Elements are specific statements of the content and skills that are expected of students with significant cognitive disabilities in reading, mathematics, and writing.
- They are linked to the grade level Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and to the Standards of Learning (SOL).



DLM Benefits

- Online format for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics will address the intensive time and labor associated with current VAAP for these content areas.
- Computer adaptive feature will ensure that student are administered tasks/items appropriate to their ability levels.
- Support and contribution of multi-state consortium will address NCLB technical requirements critical to peer review.

DLM Implementation Time

- By 2014-15, the DLM will be fully implemented in the areas of Reading,
 Mathematics, and Writing.
- History and Science will continue to be offered as an evidence-based assessment.



2012-2013 VAAP Changes

- New tests in reading, writing, and science based on SOL adopted in 2010
- New Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL) will also be needed for VAAP because of the changes in content



2012-2013 VAAP Changes

- To support the transition to DLM, ASOL in reading, writing, and mathematics will be based on the DLM content
- Science ASOL will change to reflect the new 2010 Science Standards of Learning



Changes in Selection of ASOL

- As another component of the transition to DLM, teachers must select ASOL listed at the student's grade of enrollment for Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science.
- Teachers will not be allowed to select ASOL at a higher or lower grade level for these content areas.

Levels of Performance

- Beginning in 2012-2013, teachers will be allowed to determine the level of performance for ASOL in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science.
- Levels of Performance will provide flexibility for instruction and assessment.

Levels of Performance

(Applies to Reading, Writing, Science, and Mathematics)

- Level I: Student demonstrates the ASOL with significant support and modification
- Level II: Student <u>partially demonstrates</u> the ASOL
- Level III: Student fully demonstrates the ASOL



Examples of Levels of Performance for Mathematics

- 3 M-MG 3 (a) The student will tell time to the hour on a digital clock.
- Level I Demonstrated with significant support and modification The student is able to identify the clock as the tool to tell time.
- Level II Demonstrated partially The student will identify the location of the hour on a digital clock.
- Level III Fully demonstrated
 The student will look at a digital clock and read the time to the hour.



Examples of Levels of Performance for Reading

- 3 E-RW 2 (b) The student will demonstrate understanding of the meaning of newly acquired vocabulary.
- Level I Demonstrated with significant support and modification The student is able to identify a new vocabulary word when presented with a pair of words.
- Level II Demonstrated partially The student is able to identify new vocabulary in a reading selection.
- Level III Fully demonstrated
 The student is able to correctly answer questions using new vocabulary per its definition.



What about VAAP History?

- History/Social Science ASOL will not change in 2012-2013
- Teachers will be allowed to selected ASOL at a higher or lower grade level than the student's grade level of enrollment.
- Levels of Performance will not apply.